Exploitation of ground water by farm houses

273. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the massive exploitation of ground water by farm houses in South and South West Delhi is leading to a sharp fall in the water table in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard to prevent the over-exploitation of ground water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Exploitation of ground water by farm houses in South and South West districts of NCT of Delhi is one of the reasons for sharp decline in water table. A study conducted by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in about 2 sq. km area of Jaunapur in South district of Delhi having 12 farm houses besides other residents, indicate that fall in ground water levels is due to cumulative effect of pumpage of ground water by farm houses, other farmers and local residents.

(c) To prevent over-exploitation of ground water in Delhi, the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has notified South and South West districts of NCT of Delhi prohibiting further digging of wells without prior approval of the Authority.

Agreement with China for hydrological data

†274. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 814 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to enter into an agreement with China for exchange of hydrological data of the rivers originating from China on the lines of Brahmaputra river agreement so that possibilities of extraordinarily devastating floods in Sutlej river could be minimized in future;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The matter has been taken up with the Chinese authorities for providing hydrological information in respect of Satluj river on the lines of Brahmaputra river by setting up of a hydrological station in the upper catchment.

In this regard during the recent visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to China in June, 2003, the Indian side also expressed its desire to expand exchange of hydrological information to cover the Satluj river as well, which would help us in forecasting floods and preventing damage to life and property. The Chinese side conveyed that they will consider the request and would make plans for developing the relevant hydrological stations.

Water Resources as National Wealth

275. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has suggested that the Central Government should take up development of water resources as national wealth; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Payment of Salaries to NPCC Employees

†276. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the employees of NPCC are not being paid their salaries on time;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.